

REMARKS

Claims 5 and 8 through 11 are pending in this Application. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 8 through 10 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 through 4 have been cancelled, claims 5, 8 and 9 amended and claim 11 added. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claim 5, indicated allowable, has been placed in independent form. Claim 8, previously dependent upon claims 1 or 4, was indicated allowable. Accordingly, claim 8 represents previous claim 8 in independent form as it depended upon claim 1, while claim 11 represents previous claim 8 as it depended upon claim 4 in independent form. Claim 9 has merely been amended to depend from both claims 8 and 11. Applicants, therefore, submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue but clearly places the Application in clear condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1 through 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for lack of novelty as evidenced by Suemura et al.

This rejection is traversed. Indeed, this rejection has been rendered moot by canceling claims 1 through 4.

Applicants again acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 5 and 8 through 10 contain allowable subject matter. By the present Amendment, all pending claims, i.e., claims 5 and 8 through 11, contain allowable subject matter for reasons previously

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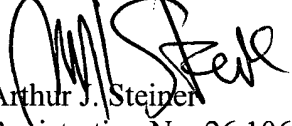
discussed. Accordingly, this Application is in clear condition for immediate allowance.

Favorable consideration is, therefore, solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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